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# DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXIII, No. 61

Section 1

June 27, 1939

## WORLD WHEAT ESTIMATE

A reduction of 600,000,000 bushels in the world wheat crop this year from the 4,555,000,000-bushel yield of 1938 was estimated yesterday by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The estimate was based upon reduced acreage in the United States and indications of reduced yields in Europe. Larger crops are expected in Canada and North Africa. Present prospects indicate a world crop of 3,995,000,000 bushels this year. In the Northern Hemisphere, exclusive of the Soviet Union and China, estimates of area and condition indicate a reduction in production of about 500,000,000 bushels from the high record production of 3,982,000,000 bushels last year. In the Southern Hemisphere the bureau estimated production at 75,000,000 bushels less than last year if growing conditions are about average for the remainder of the season. To the 1939 production must be added the world carryover, which the bureau estimated would double that of 1938, which was about 600,000,000 bushels. The July 1 carryover of the United States was expected to be about 265,000,000 bushels. (New York Times.)

## ICC HEAD ON WORLD TRADE

A proposal for "adjustments that would give all countries an opportunity to share in the resources of the world" was made at the opening of the convention of the International Chamber of Commerce yesterday by Thomas J. Watson, its retiring president, according to a Copenhagen report to the New York Times. Mr. Watson declared the world produces enough goods to supply the needs of all countries and that "therefore all the big and strong nations must assume the responsibility of adjusting international problems on a basis that will bring forth opportunities for all to enjoy their share of peaceful security and everything they need which the world produces." He proposed that "six or seven leading countries" appoint committees of economic experts to work with committees of government representatives and business men to study their countries' requirements and determine "what they would like to get from other countries and what they have to contribute to other countries to the mutual advantage of all." Mr. Watson suggested that these committees could then meet with representatives of the I.C.C. A message from President Roosevelt endorsing the efforts of the I.C.C. to promote world trade was read to the convention.

## MONEY BILL

The Senate voted yesterday, in passing the amended money bill, to remove President Roosevelt's authority to devalue further the gold content of the dollar and to order the Treasury to pay 13 cents an ounce more for domestic silver than the current Treasury rate. (New York Times.)



Livestock  
Trucking

In an article, "The Livestock Co-ops' Stake in Trucking," in News for Farmer Cooperatives (June) H. H. Hulbert, of the Farm Credit Administration, says in the concluding paragraphs: "In most areas the almost discontinuance of rail shipments has forced numbers of producers to rely wholly on truck transportation to reach markets they were accustomed to patronize. Under these circumstances, many producers have started to sell at home if trucks are not available or have consented to have their livestock trucked elsewhere for sale. Producers marketing only two or three head at one time are not always free to ship where they choose since frequently they face the alternative of shipping where the truck is going or having their livestock left at the farm. Truckmen and truck routes thus exert an influence on the movement of livestock in many areas and producers sometimes have a problem of getting this livestock to the market they select at the time when they want to get it there. Truck transportation warrants careful study from the livestock cooperatives. Standardization of rates and practices and the use of bills of lading will do much to improve the system and maintain association contracts with the actual producers of the livestock."

Pellagra  
Prevention

Advice against adding nicotinic acid to some commonly used southern foods, as a preventive of pellagra, was given recently to the American Home Economics Association by Dr. W. H. Sebrell, of the U. S. Public Health Service. While this acid does cure this particular diet disease, he emphasized, research workers still "do not know either the quantity of nicotinic acid necessary to prevent pellagra, nor the factors governing the individual's requirements." "If we attempt to substitute nicotinic acid for natural foods in the prevention of pellagra," he added, "it is not unlikely that ariboflavinosis or some other deficiency disease will simply take the place of pellagra as a public health problem in the South. I am of the opinion that it is wiser to continue our efforts to improve the food supply with natural, readily available foods which can be produced at home at little cost." (Science Service.)

Screw Worm  
Control

An effective and economical way to protect livestock from screw worms has been developed by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. The new treatment consists in applying finely ground diphenylamine to any break in the skin of cattle, sheep, horses or hogs that may be exposed to screw worm flies. Diphenylamine, the Bureau's tests show, poisons young screw worms hatching out in wounds on animals. Enough chemical to kill any worms that may hatch for several days will stick to the animal tissues. The Bureau recommends applications every three days until injuries have healed. Other screw worm treatments recommended by the Department must be used every day for satisfactory results. Diphenylamine, the Bureau warns, will not kill large screw worms. Benzol still is prescribed for the first treatment of wounds that have become infested. Once the large worms have been killed by benzol, however, applications of diphenylamine every three days will prevent the development of others.



Marketing Law      Western Farm Life (June 15) in a summary of new in Colorado      Colorado laws affecting agriculture, says the most important one is the agricultural marketing act. "The new law," it says, "authorizes producers to establish marketing districts which will be controlled, in each instance, by a board of governors chosen by and from among themselves. This board will be empowered to put into effect rules and regulations to govern the pricing and grading of the commodity for which the district was formed, and to control all operations connected with it. All fruits and garden products are embraced by the law, but timber, livestock and livestock products, poultry and poultry products, sugar beets, grains and hay are excluded. The administration of the new law is vested in the state director of agriculture."

Letter Writing      "One of the most encouraging and notable developments by Government      in the field of public service during the past few years has been the increasing recognition by government agencies of the importance of letters in building good will and in helping to make the entire program of their agencies more effective," says James F. Grady and Milton Hall, of the Farm Credit Administration, in a short article, "When Government Writes to Its Citizens," in Public Opinion Quarterly (July). "In Federal, State, county, and municipal agencies, forward-looking officials are stressing the fact that letters are a major force in shaping citizens' attitudes toward their government. Since the citizen in dealing with his government seldom meets in personal interview with its agents, the letter becomes government's representative. While exact figures are not available the number of letters mailed daily by government agencies undoubtedly runs into millions. Of even greater significance in considering the effects of various forces upon the attitudes of the public is the fact that at least 90 percent of the contacts of government agencies with citizens are through letters. The effectiveness of the business of government, therefore, depends largely upon the effectiveness of its letters. And the taxpayer's impression of the quality of the service for which he is paying is determined by the kind of letters he receives...Many agencies are taking active and intelligent steps toward improvement. In the Federal Service, for example, the Farm Credit Administration, Home Owners' Loan Corporation, Farm Security Administration, Rural Electrification Administration, and others are carrying on successful training programs. These agencies recognize that a letter-writing training program, in addition to effecting economies and building good will, provides an excellent means of learning how well a man knows his job; and that such a program results not only in improving the quality of letters, but also in promoting the growth of employees. To supplement these training programs educational institutions such as the School of Public Affairs of the American University and the School of Government of the University of Southern California are offering courses in government correspondence and related subjects..."



Senate  
June 23                      Concurred in the amendments of the House to the following Senate amendments to the agricultural appropriation bill: Pink bollworm control, \$906,800; Disposal of surplus commodities, \$113,000,000. Further insisted on the following Senate amendments: Extension work, additional payments of \$300,000; Weather Bureau building, \$250,000; Federal aid in wildlife restoration, \$2,000,000; Emergency erosion control, Everglades region, Fla., \$75,000; Farm tenancy, \$49,984,500; Exempting Farm Credit Administration employees from punishment on account of fraud in certain cases; Several amendments affecting merely totals, etc. Messrs. Russell, Hayden, Tydings, Bankhead, Smith, Nye, and McNary were appointed as Senate conferees at the further conference.

Continued debate on H. R. 3325, to extend the time within which the powers relating to the stabilization fund and alteration of the weight of the dollar may be exercised.

Both Houses agreed to the conference report on H. R. 6392, State, Justice, and Commerce appropriation bill (this bill will now be sent to the President).

Passed S. 2240, to provide for a national census of housing.

House  
June 23                      Passed H. R. 6970, urgent deficiency and supplemental appropriation bill, fiscal years 1939 and 1940, which was reported from the Committee on Appropriations (H. Rept. 910). As passed the House, this bill contains the following items of interest to this Department: Assistants to the President at \$10,000 each, \$86,400; Electric Home and Farm Authority, salaries and administrative expenses, \$500,000; Export-Import Bank, salaries and administrative expenses, \$75,000; Temporary National Economic Committee, \$300,000; Commodity Credit Corporation, salaries and administrative expenses, \$2,000,000; Alaskan International Highway Commission, \$6,200; Third International Congress for Microbiology, \$5,000.

Concurred in all the Senate amendments to H. R. 6851, revenue bill (this bill will now be sent to the President).

Committee on Foreign Affairs reported without amendment H. J. Res. 242, to authorize appropriation of \$606,650 additional for Federal participation in the San Francisco Bay Exposition (H. Rept. 937).

Received from the President a proposed provision pertaining to an existing appropriation for the Bureau of Public Roads; to Com. on Appropriations (H. Doc. 360).

Received from the War Department a report on survey of Susquehanna River for flood control; to Com. on Flood Control (H. Doc. 366).

Adjourned until Monday, June 26.

(Prepared by the Office of Budget and Finance.)

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Vol. LXXIII, No. 62

Section 1

June 28, 1939

## COTTON SITUATION

Increased prospects for a cotton export subsidy are among the factors ascribed yesterday by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics for the fact that domestic prices of spot cotton have reached the highest figures since August 1937. Other factors leading to the rise in spot prices set forth by the bureau are exceptionally small stocks of "free" American cotton, relatively high domestic and foreign mill consumption, improved domestic sales of cotton textiles, and somewhat unfavorable weather conditions. The bureau reported that despite the largest domestic stocks on record, the quantity of free cotton on hand in the United States is now 50 to 60 percent smaller than it was a year ago, while foreign stocks of cotton are much smaller than they were then. United States exports, it said, are running much below foreign consumption of American cotton. Foreign consumption of American cotton, the bureau said, continues substantially smaller than a year ago and is the smallest in 20 years, while the consumption of foreign growths continues at near record high levels. (New York Times.)

## CUTS FOREIGN SILVER PRICE

The Treasury yesterday cut the price it pays for imported silver from 43 to 40 cents an ounce. Officials made no formal explanation of the reduction, but it was learned that the Treasury feared an influx of shipments within the next few days unless prices in London and the United States were kept in line. The Treasury's foreign silver prices are good for only 24 hours and new reductions are possible in the next few days. (A.P.).

## DRY SODIUM CHLORATE FOR WEEDS

Spreading dry sodium chlorate crystals over weed-infested areas is a much safer way to apply the chemical weed killer than applying it in a solution with a sprayer, says L. W. Kephart, weed specialist of the Department. Because it destroys all vegetation, but leaches out so that the land can be used again in from 1 to 2 years, farmers are using increasing amounts of the chemical, although it is both costly and dangerous to health. If sodium chlorate becomes mixed with any organic substance it gets highly inflammable. When dry, chlorate-impregnated clothing will flame up at the least spark. This danger is largely avoided when the chemical is applied in the crystal form. Department scientists found that more chlorate is needed to kill weeds on fertile soil than on poor soil.



Country                    "In recent years the country banker has been losing  
Banking                    ground," says Walter A. Morton, of the University of  
                             Wisconsin, in the Harvard Business Review (Summer).

"Instead of being, as in the prewar era, assuredly solvent and prosperous, he is today fighting for survival. The present circumstance is a result of two well-known facts: (1) that local loans and discounts are a smaller portion of total assets, and (2) that earnings are low. Though these conditions are common today to the banking system as a whole, the country bank, by a change in investment policy not possible for city institutions, can increase its holdings of local paper, improve its earning power, and retain its vital position in our banking structure. In the absence of such changes, on the other hand, it seems likely that the country bank may no longer be able to justify itself as an independent institution. The changes suggested are: the abandonment of the liquidity and marketability theories of bank assets; the acquisition of local long-term paper; and the provision of rediscount facilities for farm mortgages...Until recently it could be said with much truth that the nation suffered from a superfluity of local banks, but the many failures since 1920 have remedied this condition. In country regions the number of banking places is no longer excessive. Indeed it has been found necessary for some banks to have branch offices in order to accommodate the public in many towns and villages. The concern over the future of the country bank as an institution should not be confused with the undoubted need of banking facilities in rural communities. It is the existence of the country bank as an independent unit institution which is at stake. Banking services will be furnished in any event; the issue is whether they can and should be furnished by branches of large systems or by unit institutions..."

Science                    "The greatest single industry in the United States,  
of Buying                    which is, incidentally, controlled chiefly by women, is  
                             winning new attention," says an editorial in the Atlanta  
Constitution (June 18). "The industry is that of purchasing for the family, an arduous task even under the best of circumstances. Buying at retail has seldom been approached as an industry, because of the small unit structure of its being, yet it is the one industry which cannot be shut down, can be affected only slightly by strikes, and upon which all other industry is absolutely dependent. Consumer purchasing directed by women comprises some 85 to 90 percent of the family budget — a budget which even in the halcyon days of 1929 meant less than \$39 a week for 60 percent of the families. By and large, this battle of the individual budget has been waged alone, by stalking bargains and learning through hard experience the relative value of the goods necessary for the maintenance of a home. Today, however, the field of home economics has taken on a new meaning with the growth of consumer-consciousness across the nation. Women's clubs have found



more and more interest centering on lectures touching upon consumer interests. The federal government has found increasing pressure for the establishment of standards by which the housewife can judge relative merits. Advertising more and more is stressing quality standards rather than colorful adjective phrasing. Universities and adult education centers offer more and more courses designed to provide tactical bases for the battle of the budget. The awakening of interest in the consumer has been a natural outgrowth of technical progress and the need for economy in the home, resulting from the depression needs of the American family."

Woven "Delicate patterns of rare woods rivaling the  
Inlay handiwork of priceless inlaid woodwork -- but within the price of the average man's pocketbook -- are the latest advance of the plastics industry," says Science Service. "With plastics, engineers of the General Electric Company in Pittsfield, Mass., are weaving thin strips of veneer wood into intricate patterns, impregnating them with phenolformaldehyde plastics and by heat and pressure creating a tough, resilient and smooth surface suitable for table tops and ornamental paneling. The finished surface is almost as smooth as glass, is highly resistant to moisture, alcohol and cigarette burns and looks like a fine, highly polished mosaic."

Extension Under the provisions of the Smith-Lever Act, the  
Personnel Cooperative Extension Service was set up on July 1, 1914, with 1,613 workers. At the beginning of the current year, 1939, there were 8,680 extension workers. Serving the farmers in the 3,000 counties in the United States and including the agents in Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico are 4,074 county agricultural agents and their assistants as compared to 881 in 1914. Working with farm homemakers in these counties are 2,136 home demonstration agents and their assistants, which has developed from the original group of 349 women on the rolls in 1914. County 4-H club agents were not employed in 1914 but now 278 men and women are located in the counties to devote their entire time to the work of 4-H clubs. From a nucleus of 50 negro extension agents working in the field on July 1, 1914, the number has grown to 504 extension agents devoting all their efforts to the benefit of the Negro farm family of the South. To support the work of the county extension agent and keep the machinery running smoothly, 622 administrators and supervisors are required in 1939 as compared to 162 in 1914. In addition, the services of 1,570 subject-matter specialists are now available as compared to 221 in 1914. (Extension Service Review, June.)

Garden Farm Machinery and Equipment (June) reports a new  
Tractor small tractor, weighing only 104 pounds, for use in the truck patch or flower garden. This little tractor has only one wheel and its 1 1/2 h.p. motor is mounted directly inside the wheel where practically all its power is utilized to pull or push different attachments. The tractor rides on a corrugated hard rubber tire six inches wide.



F.S.A. Farm Labor Camps      Common Sense (July) contains "Trampling Out the Vintage," an article by Charles L. Todd, which describes Farm Security Administration camps for Imperial Valley farm migrants. "The Migratory Labor Camps, set up under the FSA in 1937," he says in part, "have won a real victory over the forces of stupidity and wrath that made the Valley a sink-hole of farm labor exploitation since the days of the first irrigating ditch. It wasn't an easy victory. The camps were bitterly fought and hated from the beginning...There are some eleven Migratory Labor Camps scattered through California, and their stories are pretty much the same. In the little town of Brawley, for example, over three hundred dust-bowl families were huddled together in a dry riverbed a few miles out of town...In 1937, representatives of the Farm Security Administration, led by Tom Collins, drew up plans for tent platforms, an office building, a nursery and a medical unit, three sanitary units with showerbaths and toilets, a tool-shed, a garage -- in fact, all that goes into the making of a rough but livable community. Beyond lay the great orchards and vegetable acres where migrant labor was needed...Brawley became a better place to live in. Tourists began to drop in. Today the tourist camp is prospering...Statistics show that the children are 'retarded' to a certain extent, but at least they now get as much milk as the others. Brawley mothers are now enthusiastic about their new day nursery -- set up according to instructions from a government-paid nurse at the Migratory Labor Camp..A factor which has encouraged friendly relations between the Farm Security camps and surrounding communities is economic. Figures show that Brawley merchants have benefited by approximately \$16,000 a year through the presence of the Federal camp...These lonely, drought-stricken migrants, under the guidance of humane and liberal men and women, are standing on the threshold of a new order, breaking ground for a civilization that nothing can stop..."

Mo. Poultry      According to the Missouri Ruralist (June 24) "Missouri Produce Plant      Missouri has the largest poultry produce plant in the world, the Producers Produce Company, a Missouri Farmers Association cooperative. "The plant, started 17 years ago, has paid \$45,000,000 to Missouri farmers for produce, and has returned \$950,000 to the members of the co-operative in dividends. Two operations of this plant are outstanding. Poultry is picked by the wax dip method in a large unit that will handle 15,000 chickens a day at top capacity. It takes only 33 minutes for a chicken to go thru the packing plant. The other operation is breaking the eggs. Only No. 2 eggs are broken. Either the mixed yolks and whites are sold or either one separately. From 1,000 to 1,500 cases a day can be handled in the breaking department. The eggs are candled and subjected to expert inspection after they are broken. All produce is picked up through local exchanges, about 90 in all."

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Vol. LXVIII, No. 63

Section 1

June 29, 1939

**APPROPRIATION BILL PASSED** The Agriculture Department appropriation bill was sent to the White House late yesterday after two minor amendments were agreed upon. One provides for \$250,000 for beginning construction on a new Weather Bureau in Washington; the other provides for \$75,000 for fire erosion control in the Florida Everglades. (Press.)

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**FSA FUNDS IN RELIEF BILL** The Senate today passed a \$1,810,000,000 relief bill for the coming fiscal year beginning July 1. The vote was 54 to 0. The measure goes to conference today and must be passed by both Houses and sent to the President before midnight tomorrow. Among the changes made by the Senate in the House bill were: Raising the Farm Security Administration's appropriations by \$40,000,000 to \$163,000,000; and adding \$10,000,000 for carrying out terms of the Bankhead-Jones farm tenancy act and authorizing the FSA to spend 10 percent of its funds for refinancing farm mortgages. (Washington Post.)

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**COTTON-RUBBER TREATY URGED** The agreement under which the governments of Great Britain and the United States would exchange cotton for rubber, to build up strategic stocks against a major war emergency, was recommended to the Senate for ratification yesterday by the Foreign Relations Committee. In transmitting the agreement to the Senate, President Roosevelt urged its immediate ratification, "in order that it may come into effect and this country obtain the benefits involved promptly." (New York Times.)

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**MONEY BILL TO CONFERENCE** The House yesterday sent to a Senate-House conference committee the bill to extend President Roosevelt's emergency monetary powers and the \$2,000,000,000 stabilization fund for two years beyond Friday night, the expiration date. The effect of the House action was to reject the Senate amendments to the monetary bill whereby the President's remaining power to devalue the dollar would be ended, the price of domestic silver would be pegged at 77.5 cents an ounce, and the current foreign silver purchase program would be abandoned entirely. (New York Times.)

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Cooperation                      "The Federal Government, as the nation's largest  
in Standards           purchaser, is interested in a wide range of specifica-  
                                 tions for materials and apparatus; and through its great  
research and service bureaus it is interested in innumerable standardi-  
zation questions," says Industrial Standardization (June). "This in-  
terest is reflected in the close cooperation which exists today between  
the Government and the American Standards Association...Six executive  
departments of the Federal government -- Agriculture, Commerce, Interior,  
Labor, Navy and War -- and two independent establishments -- the Federal  
Housing Administration and the Government Printing Office -- hold member-  
ship in the American Standards Association. More than forty branches of  
the Federal Government are officially represented on ASA committees. In  
fact nearly every ASA project includes representatives of the Federal  
government or state governments or both. The National Bureau of Standards  
alone is active on a hundred projects..."

Canned Fruit                      The United States has such an important stake in the  
Export Record           canned fruit industry and consumption of canned fruit is  
                                 increasing so rapidly throughout the world that the Food-  
stuffs Division of the Department of Commerce has made a special analy-  
sis of factors affecting world production and international trade in  
such fruit. C. Ray Munde, chief of the division, says larger packs  
and increased consumption have been major trends in the industry in the  
last ten years. The extent of this country's interest in the industry  
is illustrated by the fact that last year it exported 7,800,000 cases,  
an all-time record, despite growing competition of Canada and Japan.  
United States exports from 1931 to 1938 increased, with an average gain  
of about 800,000 for the 1935-38 period as compared with 1931-34. (Press.)

Farmers'                              "The majority of farmers' cooperatives are now ope-  
Cooperatives           rating along sounder lines than was the case back in the  
                                 1920's when many of them had the idea they could control  
prices if only they could control the greater part of each year's supply  
of the product to be marketed," said F. F. Hill, Governor of the Farm  
Credit Administration, recently speaking to the Grange League Federation.  
"Most cooperatives," he continued, "have abandoned the price control  
idea and now endeavor to act as pace setters. That is, they try to set  
the pace in the field in which they operate by: Providing farmers with  
the kind and quality of farm supplies they need at the lowest possible  
cost; and by returning to producers as much as possible for the products  
which they sell. "Further, they try to provide business services to  
farmers at the lowest possible cost." Governor Hill said that in recent  
years farmers' cooperatives have quietly but effectively rendered im-  
portant service. "Not infrequently," he declared, "the savings which  
farmers have made through their marketing and purchasing activities have  
made up the greater part of the returns which they have been able to  
show for their year's work."



Social Science      Lewis B. Sims, Bureau of the Census, comments in the  
Analysts      American Political Science Review (June) on six recent  
civil service examinations for "social science analysts,"  
in grades ranging from P-1 to P-6, saying this is a "forward-looking at-  
tempt to keep pace with the increasing demand for trained social scientists  
in the federal service." "The examinations...were designed to recruit per-  
sons with broad professional training in various social science fields,"  
he says. "These fields were five in number--economics, agricultural eco-  
nomics, political science, sociology and social service...The examinations  
have been criticized both by competitors and by the Civil Service Commis-  
sion itself. Competitors have contended that (1) the examinations were  
unduly delayed in being scored; (2) competitors were required to furnish  
an undue amount of detailed information; competitors were too often not  
rated in the most appropriate optionals or were given an unfair rating;  
(4) the announcements were not sufficiently clear in specifying the re-  
quirements. The Civil Service Commission believes that (1) the examina-  
tions were too broad in scope and too complicated and difficult to admin-  
ister; (2) they included optionals in sociology and political science  
which are of so little practical use they should not have been included...  
But the examinations were progressive, far-reaching, and, it is to be  
hoped, precedent-setting."

In this same periodical is a list (compiled by L. F. Schmeckebier,  
of the Brookings Institution) of the changes to take place July 1 under  
the government reorganization plans.

Government      Dr. Leverett S. Lyon, vice president of the Brook-  
in Business      ings Institution, said recently in defending governmental  
extension into fields of production, that "every govern-  
mental action" will either aid or restrict individuals in making eco-  
nomic decisions and that the "appraisal of such actions" must be tested  
by "questions of public welfare." Dr. Lyon said that government today  
has two roles -- "one as an actual organizer of economic life and the  
other as the agency through which other means of organizing economic  
life can be designed." "An orientation view of government in relation  
to American economic life requires that we see government not only in  
relation to private enterprise but government as the actual organizer of  
economic activity and the producer of economic goods," he said. "We  
are familiar with this activity of government in the production of pro-  
tection, justice and education. More recently we have seen the extension  
of government into other fields, particularly the organization and ope-  
ration of a vast insurance plan, and of a relief system which, in so  
far as it is work relief, has produced both capital equipment and con-  
sumption goods in every part of the country, and in this form or through  
cash relief furnished the income for millions of citizens." Government  
may "implement and regulate" private enterprise, and when government  
acts to "implement" individual enterprise it creates situations which  
enable individuals to make their own decisions, but "presumably" enables  
these individuals to make their decisions in a way which "will be useful  
in the public interest." (New York Times.)



Senate                      Began debate on H. J. Res. 326, emergency relief  
June 27                      appropriation bill, which was reported with amendments  
                                from the Committee on Appropriations (S. Rept. 668).

The following amendments were among those agreed to: Authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to require employable recipients of relief payments to perform work on public projects; providing that the National Resources Planning Board shall be composed of the Secretaries of the Treasury, War, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, and Labor, Federal Works Administrator, and three members appointed by the President. An amendment prohibiting construction of new migratory labor camps by F. S. A. was rejected.

Agreed to S. Res. 150, requesting of the Secretary of the Treasury financial statements for several agencies, including Commodity Credit Corporation, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, Rural Electrification Administration, Farm Credit Administration, Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation, Federal Intermediate Credit Banks, Banks for Cooperatives, Production Credit Corporations, Regional Agricultural Credit Corporation, Farm Security Administration.

Passed H. R. 6577, D. C. tax bill, and sent the bill to conference. Tydings amendment to exempt farmers who sell produce in D. C. from the business privilege tax was agreed to.

Agreed to House amendment to a Senate amendment, to H. R. 5427, Labor Department appropriation bill (this bill will now be sent to the President).

Committee on Agriculture and Forestry reported the following with amendment S. 2110, to provide for purchase of fish and products thereof by the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation (S. Rept. 672); without amendment S. 2635, to extend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to all agricultural commodities (S. Rept. 681).

House                      Received a supplemental conference report on H. R.  
June 27                      5269, agricultural appropriation bill. The report provides as follows: Extension work, additional payments of \$203,000, instead of \$300,000 as proposed by the Senate; Wildlife restoration, \$1,500,000 as proposed by House, instead of \$2,000,000 as proposed by Senate; Farm tenant loans, \$40,000,000, instead of \$24,984,500 as proposed by House, or \$49,984,500 as proposed by Senate. The following amendments were again reported in disagreement: Weather Bureau building, \$250,000; Erosion control, Everglades region, Fla., \$75,000; Farm Credit Administration employees exempted from fraud charges in certain cases.

Agreed to the conference report on H. R. 5610, D. C. appropriation bill.

Committee on Public Lands reported with amendment H. R. 2728, to add certain lands to the Cleveland National Forest, Calif. (H. Rept. 950).

(Prepared by the Office of Budget and Finance.)



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Vol. LXXIII, No. 64

Section 1

June 30, 1939

**MONETARY BILL ACTION** A Senate-House conference committee last night reached a "compromise" by which the dollar devaluing power would be restored to the monetary bill and the Senate amendment ending foreign silver purchases would be deleted, says a report in the New York Times. The "price" offered for these concessions on the part of the Administration leaders was the pegging of the domestic silver price at 70 cents an ounce. By its amendment of Monday the Senate had fixed this figure at 77.5.

**COTTON-RUBBER PACT RATIFIED** The Senate ratified yesterday without discussion or a record vote the treaty with Great Britain providing for exchange of about 600,000 bales of cotton for about 45,000 tons of rubber under an agreement whereby both commodities will be held as surplus for use only in the event of war or other emergency which stops the regular supplies. The treaty will become effective immediately. (Press.)

**FARM PRICE INDEX DOWN** A drop of five points in prices received by farmers for meat animals in the month ended on June 15 forced the index for all prices received by farmers down 1 point from the previous month, says the Department of Agriculture. The index of prices paid by farmers advanced 1 point. While livestock prices dropped, grains, cotton and most other groups of farm commodities advanced slightly. At 89 percent of the prewar figure, the June 15 index was 3 points lower than on June 15 of last year. In noting the advance of prices paid by farmers, the department said the June 15 exchange value of farm products, at 74 percent of prewar, was 1 point lower than on May 15 of this year and was the same as in mid-June of last year. (Press.)

**LUMBER EXPORTS** British demand for American softwood lumber has so greatly increased that within the past few weeks some 10,000,000 feet have been booked for export, according to the Forest Products Division of the Department of Commerce. The division attaches significance to this gain, inasmuch as the total exports from Washington and Oregon for all of 1938 were only 32,000,000 feet. Exports are principally of Douglas fir and West Coast hemlock. (Press.)



May Foreign Trade Up                      United States foreign trade in May gave the country an export balance of \$46,757,000. Exports, including re-exports, registered an increase of \$18,311,000 over the previous month and were only \$8,017,000 below the value of the corresponding month last year. There was a general increase of 8 percent in exports and of 9 percent in imports. Total exports and re-exports were valued at \$249,259,000, compared with \$230,948,000 in April and \$257,-276,000 in May, 1938. The value of general imports showed a substantial increase over the April total. The figures for May were \$202,502,000, compared with \$188,195,000 for April and \$148,248,000 for May, 1938. (Press.)

Dietary Problems                      The Washington Post (June 24) comments editorially on a study of food problems, recently published as a Public Affairs Committee pamphlet, by Prof. Jennie I. Rowntree, of the home economics department of the University of Washington. "Dr. Rowntree points out," says the editorial, "what should be obvious, that the more expensive diet is not necessarily superior. The test is not the cost, nor even the quantity of provender, but 'the condition of the people after generations on the same food.' Dr. Rowntree does not advocate any radical change in American food habits, but merely a combination of familiar foods so as to obtain the maximum of benefit from them. It is not only the poor who suffer from inadequate diets. Some of the worst cases of undernourishment, in fact, are found among children of well-to-do-faddists 'who make eating a task instead of a pleasure.' Thus it will be seen that the food problem is as much an educational as an economic problem. Dr. Rowntree by no means neglects such factors as distribution of purchasing power, or the spread between farm prices and retail prices. It is interesting, though, to note that her remedy is not in the direction of more uniformity, but in that of more diversity of dishes, and a return to traditional ones. She wants people 'to make the most of local foods,' to eat 'fish on the seacoast, potatoes where they grow, beans again making New England famous, and chicken and corn bread in the South'."

Puerto Rican Farm Taxes                      An estimated 20,000 farmers in Puerto Rico with unpaid taxes not exceeding \$400 each are benefited by a tax-remission measure signed by Governor Winship, recently, wiping out a total of \$2,250,000 due to the Insular Treasury. By wiping out the government's preferred tax claim against these farms, thousands of farmers will be kept on the land with a new chance to become self-sustaining and prosperous. They also will aid the Federal policy of reestablishing thousands on lands through redistribution and resettlement. (New York Times.)



F.S.A. Loans                      Administration  
Aid Schooling      The Farm Security/has announced that its nation-wide survey of rehabilitation borrowers showed that 186,619 children of school age in these low-income farm families had been enabled to attend school last year as a result of the program. These children were members of the 232,947 families covered by the survey. During the past year, the survey disclosed, they increased their total net worth by \$62,773,173, or about 38 percent, an average of \$269 per family. It was this improvement in economic status which enabled so many families to send their children to school. In the past, school attendance had been prevented by using the children for income-producing work, by the lack of suitable clothes and food, by ill health, or by frequent moves which made attendance in school impracticable. The increased school attendance ranged from zero in Massachusetts and Rhode Island to 19,622 in Texas.

Record Gain                      An increase of 20 percent in the spring pig crop and  
in Pig Crop                      the expectation that the number of sows to farrow in the fall season will be 16 percent above last year leads the Bureau of Agricultural Economics to the expectation that the 1939 pig crop will be the largest since 1923. The increase in hog production in prospect for this year over 1938 is larger than in any year on record, according to the bureau. The total number of sows to farrow this year is about 22 percent larger than in 1938. Indications are there will be a total pig crop about 16 percent larger than the ten-year (1928-38) average and about 4 percent above the five-year (1929-33) average. The number of pigs saved in the spring season this year is estimated at 52,314,000 head, or 8,864,000 more than were saved in the spring season of 1938. The sum of the estimated spring and indicated fall litters for 1939 gives a total of 13,640,000 for the year. Assuming the average number of pigs per litter this fall to equal the ten-year average, the combined spring and fall pig crops would total 83,000,000 head, or about 12,000,000 more than last year. (New York Times.)

May Butter                      The Bureau of Agricultural Economics has estimated  
Production                      that creamery butter production totaled 193,701,000 pounds in May, compared with 199,596,000 in the same month last year. Despite the 3 percent reduction, last month's production was the second largest May output on record and was 6 percent above the 1930-37 average. (A.P.)

Cooperative                      "The Farmer as Co-Administrator" is the title of an  
Farm Groups                      article by Dale Clark, of the Planning Division of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, in Public Opinion Quarterly (July). He sketches briefly the various devices by which the farm group is enabled to participate in public programs. "This participation," he says, "applies to policy formulation, program administration, and even to educational processes."



Senate Committee on Appropriations reported with amendments H. R. 6970, urgent deficiency and supplemental appropriation bill (S. Rept. 687). Mr. O'Mahoney gave notice that he intends to move to suspend the rules and propose an amendment to the bill modifying the provision heretofore inserted in the Treasury-Post Office Appropriation Act, limiting the use of the franking privilege.

Agreed to the conference report on H. R. 5610, D. C. appropriation bill, and appointed conferees for a further conference on certain amendments in disagreement.

(Prepared by the Office of Budget and Finance.)

Boxes for Dry Milk "A revolutionary change in containers for wholesale lots of dry milk is offered by introduction of a new moisture-repellent, corrugated container which bids fair to replace the wooden barrel as a dry milk container," says National Butter and Cheese Journal (June). "...Nearly a million pounds of dry milk have been shipped in these boxes. Careful laboratory tests have been made. There are several advantages given for the box -- it is moisture repellent, keeps excessive humidity out with its patented moisture-proofed corrugation sheet. It is light in weight, thus saving freight, and can be collapsed to take little storage space..."

B.P.I. Plant Explorer Walter Koelz, plant explorer of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has left for Afghanistan in search of vegetables and fruits of that and adjacent countries which may be adapted to cultivation in the United States, the department has announced. Departure of Koelz coincided with the conclusion of one century of such exploration by the department and its predecessor agencies. Just 100 years ago Congress authorized the first collection of foreign seeds and plants for use in this country. (Washington Post, June 26.)

Bookmobiles in Virginia A chance to have 12,000 books brought within easy reach of Virginia rural inhabitants became a reality recently, when the first of 12 proposed library trucks was launched into service by the WPA and state instruction agencies, says a report in the Richmond Times Dispatch (June 27). The new "bookmobile" is a part of the WPA statewide library project, for which \$989,000 has been allocated from federal and state sources. The present truck will carry daily a load of 700 books to cross-roads centers and even to the homes of rural shut-ins, W. A. Moore, Jr., supervisor of the WPA project, said yesterday. The plan, he explained, is for local school, public or other libraries to pool their loanable volumes with the WPA stock of books and let the "bookmobiles" give them the widest possible circulation. The local library groups act as cosponsors of the project with the State Board of Education and the State Library Board. The bookmobiles also will carry Government bulletins and other practical information for farmers.





